

A.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of configuring a single network access device of a computer of a subscriber having a first subscription to a first service provider of a first service network and a second subscription to a second service provider of a second service network, the network access device comprising a cable modem connected through a high-speed cable access network to one of the first and second service networks, the method comprising:

~~transmitting, to the subscriber, user credentials for accessing each of the first and second service networks, the user credentials for storage by the computer;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a first request for access to the first service network;

assigning, to the network access device in response to the first request, a first network address allocated by the cable access network to the first service provider, the first network address used by the network access device to communicate data over the cable access network to the first service network for accessing the first service network, in response to the first request;

receiving, from the subscriber, a second request to change from the first service network to the second service network;

initiating, in response to the second request, a network address change request to release the first network address using a configuration protocol ~~without changing the user credentials of the subscriber for the first service network;~~ and

assigning, to the network access device, a second network address allocated by the cable access network to the second service provider ~~to the network access device, the second network~~

address used by the network access device to communicate data over the cable access network to the second service network.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second requests include an authentication request for the subscriber.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said initiating further comprises transmitting an authentication status for the subscriber to the second service provider, wherein the network address change request is initiated only when the second service provider authenticates the authentication status of the subscriber.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the configuration protocol is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second network addresses comprise an Internet Protocol address.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:
transmitting to the subscriber a plurality of updated service provider choices to which the subscriber may additionally subscribe.

7. (currently amended) A method of configuring a single network access device of a computer of a subscriber having a first subscription to a first service provider of a first service network and a second subscription to a second service provider of a second service network, the

network access device comprising a cable modem connected through a high-speed cable access network infrastructure to one of the first and second service networks, the method comprising:

~~transmitting, to the subscriber, user credentials for accessing each of the first and second service networks, the user credentials for storage by the computer;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a first request for access to the first service network;

assigning, to the network access device in response to the first request, a first network address allocated by the cable access infrastructure to the first service provider, the first network address used by the network access device to communicate data over the cable access infrastructure to the first service network ~~for accessing the first service network, in response to the first request;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a second request to change from the first service network to the second service network;

initiating, in response to the second request, a network address change request to release the first network address using a dynamic host configuration protocol ~~without changing the user credentials of the subscriber for the first service network;~~ and

assigning, to the network access device, a second network address allocated by the cable access infrastructure to the second service provider ~~to the network access device~~, the second network address used by the network access device to communicate data over the cable access infrastructure to the second service network.

8. (currently amended) A method of configuring a network access device to obtain a network address allocated to a selected service provider, the network access device comprising a

cable modem connected through a high-speed cable access network to a plurality of service providers to which the subscriber has subscribed, comprising:

~~transmitting, to the subscriber, user credentials for accessing each of the plurality of service providers, the user credentials for storage by a computer of the subscriber;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a first request for access to a first service provider from the plurality of service providers;

assigning, to the network access device in response to the first request, a first network address allocated by the cable access infrastructure to the network access device for communicating data over the cable access infrastructure to the first service provider, ~~in response to the first request~~;

receiving, from the subscriber, a second request to access a selected service provider from the plurality of service providers, wherein the second request includes an authentication request for the subscriber based on the user credentials;

receiving a response from the cable access network, wherein said response includes an authentication status for the subscriber; and

when the subscriber is authenticated, initiating a network address change request using a host configuration protocol, whereby the first network address allocated to the first service provider is released ~~without changing the user credentials of the subscriber for the plurality of service providers~~, and a second network address allocated by the cable access network to the selected service provider is assigned to the network access device, the second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data with the selected service provider over the cable access network.

9. (previously presented) The method recited in Claim 8, wherein the host configuration protocol is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

10. (previously presented) The method recited in Claim 9, wherein the network access device receives an Internet Protocol address.

11. (currently amended) A method of configuring a single network access device of a computer of a subscriber having a first subscription to a first service provider of a first service network and a second subscription to a second service provider of a second service network, the network access device comprising a cable modem connected through a high-speed cable access network communicating with a service activation system to the first and second service networks, the method comprising:

~~transmitting, to the subscriber, user credentials for accessing each of the first and second service networks, the user credentials for storage by the computer;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a first request for access to the first service network;

assigning, to the network access device, a first network address allocated by the cable access network to the first service provider for accessing the first service network, in response to the first request;

receiving, from the subscriber, a second request to change from the first service network to the second service network;

sending authentication information for the second service provider to the service activation system;

receiving an authentication status from the service activation system and, if authenticated;

initiating a network address change request using a configuration protocol,

whereby a second network address allocated to the second service provider by the cable access network is assigned to the network access device, the second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets over the cable access network to the second service network, and the first network address is released ~~without changing the user credentials of the subscriber for the first service network.~~

12. (currently amended) A method of configuring a single network access device of a computer of a subscriber having a first subscription to a first service provider of a first service network and a second subscription to a second service provider of a second service network, the network access device comprising a cable modem connected through a high-speed cable access network ~~communicating with infrastructure having a service activation system to the first and~~ second service networks, the method comprising:

~~transmitting, to the subscriber, user credentials for accessing each of the first and second service networks, the user credentials for storage by the computer;~~

receiving, from the subscriber, a first request for access to the first service network;

assigning, to the network access device, a first network address allocated by the cable access infrastructure to the first service provider for accessing the first service network, in response to the first request;

receiving, from the subscriber, a second request to change from the first service network to the second service network;

sending authentication information for the second service provider to the service activation system;

receiving an authentication status from the service activation system and, if authenticated; initiating a network address change request using a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP),

whereby a second network address allocated to second service provider by the cable access infrastructure is assigned to the network access device, the second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets over the cable access infrastructure to the second service network, and the first network address is released ~~without changing the user credentials of the subscriber for the first service network.~~